



SHANNO KHURANA
Akademi Fellow

Born in 1927 in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Shrimati Shanno Khurana received her initial training in vocal music from Pandit Raghunath Rao Musalgaonkar of the Gwalior gharana and later studied under Ustad Mushtaq Hussain Khan of the Rampur gharana. Under Thakur Jaidev Singh she studied musicology and Thumri of the Poorab ang.

Over a performing career spanning five decades, Shrimati Shanno Khurana has developed an individual style of rendering Khayal, Thumri, and Tappa. In the 1950s, she won renown as a singer-actress in the highly successful operatic production Heer-Ranjha, directed by Shiela Bhatia. Subsequently, she performed and composed music for other operas, employing various forms of classical and folk music. In more recent years, Shrimati Khurana has played a significant role in presenting and promoting women musicians in different forums. She has also been a proponent of rare forms and ragas of Hindustani music. Her music has been heard since the 1950s on All India Radio, and has been documented by several international organizations.

Shrimati Shanno Khurana has combined her performing career with scholarly work in music. She received her Ph.D. in musicology in 1966, and by her consistent research in the field, she has contributed to a number of journals and other publications. She has several books and commercial recordings to her credit.

For her service to music, Shrimati Shanno Khurana was honoured with the Punjab Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1984 and the Padma Shri in 1991. The Oltin Bulbule (Golden Nightingale) Award was bestowed on her at the International Festival of Music in Samarkand in 1997. In 1982, she was honoured by the Delhi Natya Sangh.

For her contribution to Indian music, Shrimati Shanno Khurana is elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi.

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